

CHAPTER 6

EVALUATION, ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The 11 shovel tests within the Darley Road study area were devoid of cultural material. Two of the 15 shovel tests within the Naaman's Road (East) study area yielded historic artifacts evidently related to the 20th-century dwelling which formerly stood near this location. The 14 shovel tests excavated within the Naaman's Road (West) study area produced no cultural materials and revealed homogeneous soil profiles. In the case of all three of these study areas, it is clear that no significant archaeological resources exist within the zones of impact for the proposed highway improvements. No further archaeological investigation is considered necessary in connection with the project as currently defined.

A more extended archaeological analysis of the Marsh Road study area is offered, since historical research and fieldwork demonstrated the existence at this location of the 19th-century residential property referred to here as the J.G. Hanby House Site (see above, Chapters 4.C and 5.D).

An earthen berm partially surrounding the presumed cellar hole of the Hanby dwelling suggests that earth and structural remains were bulldozed into the cellar at the time of the building's demolition, which apparently took place sometime after 1953. This action most likely resulted in extensive disturbance to the adjacent yard. Excavation Unit 1 did not definitively determine whether the structure had been the Hanby dwelling (although this seems likely), but it clearly indicated that the cellar of the structure had been filled during one episode in the recent past. The stratigraphic and artifactual contents of the cellar would thus appear to bear a questionable and much disturbed relationship to the historic occupancy of the property. Some limited architectural information relating to the construction of the building could conceivably be gleaned from further excavation in the area of this foundation.

Only six of the 30 shovel tests excavated within the Marsh Road study area contained historic artifacts. The low density of material in these six tests and the number of non-productive shovel tests are surprising given the former existence of the mid-19th-century Hanby dwelling complex. This low density of material may reflect post-depositional disturbance of the site and the placement and limited visibility of small-sized shovel test excavations. The two excavations units within the historic yard (Excavation Units 2 and 3) were somewhat more productive and revealed a succession of strata, the earliest of which would appear to date to the second half of the 19th century.

The J.G. Hanby House Site may be characterized as the residential focus of a small-scale farmstead engaged in mixed agriculture, but with an emphasis on dairying. As an agricultural entity, it can be seen as a rather typical mid-19th century small dairy farm, a property type that was common in northern New Castle County. From around 1870 onwards, it became an element of a slightly larger dairy farm that stayed in operation through to the mid-20th century. The tenorial history of the farmstead reflects the 19th-century subdivision and fragmentation of larger Hanby landholdings in this section of New Castle County, the Hanby family being one of the earliest and more prominent farming dynasties in the area. As an archaeological resource, the J.G. Hanby House Site displays a somewhat compromised integrity: the presumed dwelling site and immediately surrounding area were apparently disturbed through demolition activity. The broader yard area contains some intact deposits that contain 19th-century cultural materials, but the density of material is sparse and the build-up of stratigraphy slight.

Standards for evaluating site significance are provided in the 19th-century agricultural context study prepared for New Castle and Kent Counties, Delaware by De Cunzo (1992). Agricultural complex sites with compromised integrity should be considered significant if the site reflects a rare or poorly documented type, and if architectural and associated agricultural landscape integrities are considered good. Further, short-term occupation sites should possess physical integrity, and long-term ones should have physical integrity for at least one temporal period. In the case of the J.G. Hanby House Site, physical integrity has been preserved in portions of the historic yard, but evidently not adjacent to the possible dwelling. While the consultant recognizes that "typical" sites should by no means be excluded from the archaeological data base for any time period, it appears that the J.G. Hanby House Site possesses neither sufficient integrity, nor a potential to yield significant data, to warrant inclusion in the Delaware or National Registers of Historic Places. On this basis, no further archaeological study of this resource is recommended in connection with the stormwater management pond planned within the Marsh Road study area.